

*Annual Report of
Texas School Health Advisory Committee*

Name of Advisory Committee:

Texas School Health Advisory Committee

Staff contact:

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Reporting Period: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

Is this advisory committee subject to Texas Government Code, Chapter 2110?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Partially – with the exception of §2110.008

Check one:

☒ This advisory committee is specifically created by state or federal law.
or

☐ This advisory committee is under the general authority granted to the agency.

Part 1 – Review

1. Provide a description of the advisory committee, including the committee's purpose, statutory authority, number and type of members, and names of current members. Indicate the number of meetings held over the past year.

A. Committee Background and Purpose:

The Texas School Health Advisory Committee (TSHAC) was created by Senate Bill 42 in 2005 during the 79th Legislative Session. This bill also established a coordinated school health education package for public, primary and secondary schools focusing on health education, physical activity and food products.

The establishment of a state-level advisory committee, with a membership that reflects the diversity of school health issues, added another dimension to the systematic dissemination of coordinated school health programming and school health services in Texas.

Now codified in Health and Safety Code, Title 12, Subchapter D, Chapter 101, §1001.0711, the purpose of the TSHAC as stated in Texas Administrative Code Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 37, Subchapter R, §37.350 – **is to provide assistance to the State Health Services Council in establishing a leadership role for the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) in the support and delivery of coordinated school health programs and school health services.**

B. Membership:

By law, one representative from the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and one representative of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) serve as members of the committee. By rule, the coordinator of the DSHS School Health Program serves as a member along with 17 additional appointments. Categories for membership were defined by rule to specifically reflect the eight components of a coordinated school health program as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The following individuals are currently members of the TSHAC:

Annual Report of Texas School Health Advisory Committee

Members:

Category:

Elvia Andarza, R.D. , Nutrition Coordinator, Texas Department of Agriculture	Required by law
Kimberly Avila-Edwards, M.D. - Austin TSHAC ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICER	Physician
Tracy Biediger, M.D. , Dermatologist - Boerne	Parent
Rhonda Carr, R.D. , Dietitian, Child Nutrition Services, Midland ISD	Parent
Bob Conlon, Ph.D. , Director of Student Support Services, Ft. Bend ISD	Counselor (Mental Health)
Dian Cooper , Administrator, Palmer ISD - Waxahachie	Administrator
Carey Dabney , Healthy Lifestyles Consultant, PTA - Austin	Parent
Courtney Felder-Dodd - College Station, Program Specialist, Volunteer Development, County Extension Exchange	Agency/ Organization
Cathy Harris, R.N. - Midland - School Health Specialist, Education Service Center Region 18	Agency/ Organization
Robin Harvel, R.N. - San Antonio - School Nurse, Ft. Sam Houston Elementary School	Agency/ Organization
Jan Hungate , Asst. Superintendent, West ISD	Administrator
Marissa Rathbone , Director of School Health - Division of Health and Safety - Texas Education Agency	Required by law
Kelly Hirsch , School Health Program Manager, Harris County Health Department	Agency/ Organization
Dora Rivas, R.D. , Division Manager, Food and Child Nutrition Services, Dallas ISD	Nutritionist
Linda Seewald , Coordinator of P.E. and Health, Northside ISD	Health Educator
Yolanda Taylor, M.D. , Pediatrician - Argyle	Parent
Jane Tustin, R.N. , Health Services Coordinator, Lubbock ISD TSHAC PRESIDING OFFICER	Nurse
Anita Wheeler, R.N. , Coordinator, School Health Program, DSHS	Required by Rule

Two positions are vacant: the *physical educator* category member (due to a resignation) and one *parent* category member. Nominations for membership have been solicited and the approval process is pending.

The committee met six times during the 2006-07 year: October 16, 2006; December 11, 2006; January 24, 2007; March 5, 2007; April 23, 2007 and June 18, 2007. Minutes of all meetings, except June 18th, which have yet to be approved, are attached. Two additional meetings are planned before the end of calendar year 2007: September 17, 2007 and November 12, 2007.

2. Provide an overview of the activities of the advisory committee over the past year including major accomplishments, as well as future activities and plans.

- A. Activities relevant to the first year of operation were the focus for the TSHAC, for example: orientation and training on state laws pertaining to legislatively mandated advisory groups, information sharing of internal and external resources, activities impacting the committee's charge, and short and long term planning.

*Annual Report of
Texas School Health Advisory Committee*

- B. Members reviewed and commented on the TEA commissioner's rules regarding development of criteria for the selection of coordinated school health programs, as required by legislation passed during the 79th Legislative Session.
- C. TSHAC planning yielded a vision, mission, goals and objectives as well as a statement of guiding principles.

☞ **VISION:**

We the TSHAC envision healthier Texans through coordinated school health.

☞ **MISSION:**

To provide assistance to the State Health Services Council in establishing a leadership role for DSHS in the support for and delivery of coordinated school health programs and school health services.

☞ **GOALS:**

- A) **A**ctive leadership
- B) **B**est practices identification and dissemination
- C) **C**oordinated School Health promotion

☞ **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Identify local needs, interests and resources
2. Facilitate interagency coordination
3. Become and remain current with state and national legislation and trends
4. Contribute timely and appropriate content to DSHS School Health Web site on a regular basis
5. Provide regional SHAC list-serves with information and resources for statewide distribution to local SHACS
6. Promote communication and collaboration among stakeholders
7. Assess and translate child health research data into CSH practice issues and provide to stakeholders

☞ **GUIDING PRINCIPLES:**

- Assuring a healthy future for all
Texans will guide the work of this committee.
- To that end, we will work to
Support a healthy and safe school environment that fosters learning.
- We will dedicate our efforts to goals that will produce
Healthier minds and bodies through effective school health education and services.
- Achieving
Academic success by providing leadership to those who teach and empower our students will be our sustaining and overarching charge.
- We will champion the practice of
Coordinated School Health to effectively reach our goals and objectives through the eight components of coordinated school health programming.

***Annual Report of
Texas School Health Advisory Committee***

- D. A work plan is under development, as well as strategies to accomplish goals and objectives.
 - C. The TSHAC established the following subcommittees to study topics identified for immediate attention:
 - 1. A pandemic flu subcommittee working with TEA and DSHS in the development of *Pandemic Flu State-wide Model Guidelines for Texas Schools*.
 - 2. A mental health subcommittee to: (a) identify and recommend appropriate mental health needs assessment tools to schools; and, (b) determine ways to disseminate school connectedness information and other mental health resources to appropriate individuals in, and connected with, schools.
 - F. Development of a TSHAC Web page on the School Health Program Web site. The Web address is: www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/shadvise.shtm.
The page provides:
 - 1. The history and purpose of the TSHAC
 - 2. A list of the membership
 - 3. Meeting minutes
 - 4. Future meeting dates
 - 5. Current and emerging information, “alerts” to stakeholders, and links to appropriate internal and external resources
 - 6. TSHAC membership applications when appropriate
 - 7. Guiding principles, mission and vision
 - 8. A link to another page primarily for TSHAC members to retrieve specific requests, information provided at previous meetings or additional items provided by members to support TSHAC goals
 - G. TSHAC provided support to the DSHS School Health Program in the development and dissemination of the 2007 and 2008 Regional School Health Survey, which was designed to assess education and service needs throughout the state relative to coordinated school health programming.
 - H. An interchange of ideas and information occurred during TSHAC committee meetings among partners such as TEA, TDA, Texas Partnership for a Healthy Texas Coalition, Texas Action for Healthy Kids Coalition and others, as these groups worked within their own organizations to develop statewide resources and initiatives.
- 3. Describe challenges encountered by this advisory committee over the past year and how these were addressed or resolved.**

Travel reimbursement for members

In accordance with the requirements set forth in the Government Code, §2110.004, a TSHAC member’s expenses are non-reimbursable. This can impose undue hardship on the current membership especially the *parent* category.

This issue has been resolved for the 2008-2009 biennium. The TSHAC has been added to DSHS Rider #34, which authorizes the agency to reimburse advisory members who are consumers or who represent the general public. This would include parent members of the TSHAC.”

***Annual Report of
Texas School Health Advisory Committee***

4. Explain why this advisory committee is useful to the agency.

- A. Issues and priorities identified by this committee provide focus for the DSHS School Health Program to allocate resources to support school professionals and stakeholders to improve the health of children in Texas.
- B. The outcomes from this committee can highlight the importance of coordinating chronic disease prevention and health promotion initiatives, beginning with the school age population.
- C. The TSHAC can help direct and influence public health priorities by recommending, developing and implementing initiatives based on current legislation targeting student services provided to schools.
- D. By focusing on its mission, described as its “charge” in the statute, the TSHAC will move towards its goals by forging new partnerships, continuing current ones and strengthening others. This will provide the synergy to enhance the resources generated and accessed by these partners which is key to the TSHAC’s success.

5. Provide any additional information pertinent to this advisory committee.

Due to the efforts of the TSHAC, increased awareness of the collaborative potential between DSHS, TEA and TDA in identification of “best practices” has emerged.

Part 2 – Evaluation

6. Provide information on the costs related to the advisory committee.

- A. Travel and related reimbursement for committee members, if any: None
- B. Agency staff time - Estimated total annual staff hours and annual salary expenses to support this committee:
 - 1. Primary staff position responsible - Information Specialist III:
20% time allocated to project = \$8,000 per year
 - 2. School Health Coordinator – Program Specialist V:
15% time allocated to project = \$7,200 per year
 - 3. Administrative Support – Public Health Tech II:
20% time allocated to project = \$5,328 per year

AVERAGE TIME ALLOCATED: 18.3% TOTAL SALARY ALLOCATED: \$20,528
- C. Other expenses: \$500 office supplies

7. Summary of Activities and Recommendations.

The members of the TSHAC are knowledgeable professionals who are passionate and committed to the concept and philosophy of coordinated school health. Each brings an expertise and perspective that compliments the work of the committee. The group quickly oriented themselves to the charge of the TSHAC, and with each new issue brought before the group, measured it against the mission and vision.

The focus of the TSHAC is action-oriented, as indicated by the strategic goals related to communication and best practices. The group has had six meetings. They have

***Annual Report of
Texas School Health Advisory Committee***

accomplished several tasks and are carefully monitoring the progress of initiatives recommended, such as the template for a Pandemic Flu Plan for schools. The TDA, TEA and DSHS have responded respectfully and in a timely manner to questions and other requests for information.

The members of the committee hope to become a sounding board or review committee for state agencies seeking input on school health related rules and regulations. The committee provides an accessible depth of expertise and an objective perspective to assist DSHS, TEA, TDA and others, with school health laws, rules, criteria and policies.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage state agencies to utilize the expertise of the TSHAC when promulgating or amending rules and regulations in areas impacting the health of students in schools; or topics related to coordinated school health programs and services.
2. Schedule an annual meeting with the DSHS Council to present goals, initiatives and strategies of the TSHAC.
3. Obtain support from the DSHS Council to research and apply for grants.